

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3-8 and 13-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 9-12 and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 3 and 13 are amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,144,350 to Fujii et al. The Office Action also rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,515,569 to Hernqvist. Finally, the Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hernqvist and U.S. Patent No. 6,034,810 to Robinson. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejections are moot as the rejected claims have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 9-12 and 16 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carl R. Wesolowski, at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. 10/693,998
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

Docket No. P-0607

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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